



Ethics Commission



Description

The Ethics Commission is an independent City entity responsible for monitoring, administering, and enforcing the City's governmental ethics laws, which include the City's campaign laws, lobbying laws, and ethics laws. The Ethics Commission conducts audits and investigations, provides formal and informal advice to persons who fall within its jurisdiction, conducts live training sessions, administers on-line training programs, and proposes governmental ethics law reforms.

The Commission's mission is:

To preserve public confidence in City government through education, advice, and the prompt and fair enforcement of local government ethics laws

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives represent the action plan for the Ethics Commission:

Goal 1: Educate City Officials, City candidates, and lobbyist about the various provisions in the City's governmental ethics laws

The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objectives.

- Provide prompt informal advice via telephone and email
- Issue formal advisory opinions
- Prepare and disseminate educational materials such as Fact Sheets
- Conduct live and on-line training courses on the Ethics Ordinance for City Officials
- Conduct live training courses on the Election Campaign Control Ordinance for City candidates; and
- Conduct live training courses on the Lobbying Ordinance for lobbyists

Goal 2: Ensure Compliance with the City's governmental ethics laws through audit and enforcement activities

The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objectives.

- Conduct efficient and thorough investigations into alleged violations of the City's ethics laws, campaign laws, and lobbying laws
- Conduct compliance audits of City candidate and ballot measure committees

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Goal 3: Propose legislative amendments to ensure that the City's governmental ethics laws are effective in preventing corruption and the appearance of corruption

The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objectives.

- Review existing laws, receiving public input, and studying laws in other jurisdictions
- Prepare proposed legislative amendments for City Council approval

Service Efforts and Accomplishments

The Ethics Commission received a total of 93 complaints during Calendar Year 2007 and approved 57 of these matters for formal investigation. The investigations conducted by Commission staff resulted in 20 stipulated settlement agreements involving administrative fines totaling \$42,100.

In addition, the Commission completed the audits of candidate and ballot measure committees from the 2004 election cycle. The Commission also conducted a random drawing for the 2005-2006 election cycle and selected 18 candidate committees and three ballot measure committees for audit.

During Fiscal Year 2007, the Commission continued to make education and outreach a priority. The Commission staff conducted numerous live training sessions for City officials, City candidates, and lobbyists. In addition, the Commission staff responded to hundreds of requests for informal advice from City officials, City candidates and their staffs, and lobbyists.

The Commission's legislative activities during Fiscal Year 2007 were focused on the overhaul of the City's Lobbying Ordinance. The changes proposed by the Commission were unanimously approved by the City Council in July. The new laws, which went into effect on January 1, 2008, should ensure that the appropriate persons are registering as lobbyists, and that they are disclosing a sufficient amount of information regarding lobbying and related activities.

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Department Summary

Ethics Commission				
	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 BUDGET	FY 2009 PROPOSED	FY 2008-2009 CHANGE
Positions	8.00	8.00	8.00	0.00
Personnel Expense	\$ 954,260	\$ 978,481	\$ 966,849	\$ (11,632)
Non-Personnel Expense	\$ 54,125	\$ 42,625	\$ 42,614	\$ (11)
TOTAL	\$ 1,008,385	\$ 1,021,106	\$ 1,009,463	\$ (11,643)

Department Staffing

	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 BUDGET	FY 2009 PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND			
Ethics Commission			
Ethics Commission	8.00	8.00	8.00
Total	8.00	8.00	8.00

Department Expenditures

	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 BUDGET	FY 2009 PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND			
Ethics Commission			
Ethics Commission	\$ 1,008,385	\$ 1,021,106	\$ 1,009,463
Total	\$ 1,008,385	\$ 1,021,106	\$ 1,009,463

Significant Budget Adjustments

GENERAL FUND

Ethics Commission	Positions	Cost	Revenue
Salary and Benefit Adjustments	0.00	\$ (11,632)	\$ 0
Adjustments to reflect the annualization of the Fiscal Year 2008 negotiated salary compensation schedule, changes to average salaries, retirement contributions, retiree health contributions, and other benefit compensation.			

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Significant Budget Adjustments

GENERAL FUND

Ethics Commission	Positions	Cost	Revenue
Support for Information Technology	0.00 \$	35 \$	0
Funding allocated according to a zero-based annual review of information technology funding requirements and priority analyses.			
Non-Discretionary	0.00 \$	(46) \$	0
Adjustments to expenses that are determined outside of the Department's direct control. Examples of these adjustments include utilities, insurance, and rent.			

Expenditures by Category

	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 BUDGET	FY 2009 PROPOSED
PERSONNEL			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 652,371	\$ 656,647	\$ 650,622
Fringe Benefits	\$ 301,889	\$ 321,834	\$ 316,227
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 954,260	\$ 978,481	\$ 966,849
NON-PERSONNEL			
Supplies & Services	\$ 36,674	\$ 36,674	\$ 36,674
Information Technology	\$ 11,140	\$ 1,241	\$ 1,230
Energy/Utilities	\$ 1,846	\$ 245	\$ 245
Equipment Outlay	\$ 4,465	\$ 4,465	\$ 4,465
SUBTOTAL NON-PERSONNEL	\$ 54,125	\$ 42,625	\$ 42,614
TOTAL	\$ 1,008,385	\$ 1,021,106	\$ 1,009,463

Salary Schedule

GENERAL FUND

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<i>Class</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>FY 2008 Positions</i>	<i>FY 2009 Positions</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Total</i>
1218	Assoc Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	\$ 64,335	\$ 64,335
1596	City Attorney Investigator	1.00	1.00	\$ 69,475	\$ 69,475
1842	Accountant II	1.00	1.00	\$ 61,921	\$ 61,921
1876	Executive Secretary	1.00	1.00	\$ 52,009	\$ 52,009
1885	Sr Attorney Investigator	1.00	1.00	\$ 76,634	\$ 76,634
2197	Ethics Commission General Counsel	0.00	1.00	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000
2224	Assoc Counsel	1.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
2268	Executive Director	1.00	1.00	\$ 110,248	\$ 110,248

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Salary Schedule

GENERAL FUND

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<i>Class</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>FY 2008 Positions</i>	<i>FY 2009 Positions</i>		<i>Salary</i>		<i>Total</i>
2270	Program Manager	1.00	1.00	\$	86,000	\$	86,000
	Total	8.00	8.00			\$	650,622
ETHICS COMMISSION TOTAL		8.00	8.00			\$	650,622